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outline picture of the international rivalries in the continent during the first decade and a half of the present century. The author has traveled widely in the lands he describes and has had personal acquaintance with many of the men who have been prominent in their development.

The chapters are to a large extent independent of each other. No attempt is made to treat the subject historically or by a grouping of the various international interests. For him who looks for a well-organized exposition of the cause of developments in Africa, therefore, the volume leaves much to be desired, but for him who seeks a vivid picture of present developments, Mr. Gibbons' description will prove both entertaining and instructive. For those who are already familiar with the chief features of the scramble for Africa, the most valuable portions of the book are those which discuss conditions in the less important and often neglected regions such as the east coast and the Portuguese colonies.

C. L. J.

HOLDICH, SIR THOMAS H. *Political Frontiers and Boundary Making*. Pp. xi, 307. Price, \$3.25. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1916.

The most striking feature of this survey of the problems involved in boundary making is the author's comprehensive grasp of geographic and population questions from Patagonia to the Afghan highlands and from ancient Greece to the present day. Covering so wide a field the study cannot be detailed, but what the picture loses in detail it gains in boldness of outline.

Most writers have placed too much emphasis, it is pointed out, upon the ethnographic factors which are to be taken into consideration in marking out national limits. Though race should be considered, more important are the preferences of the inhabitants; and often more important than either is the geographical suitability of a frontier, for after all that frontier is best which holds out the promise that the lands it includes will be easily defensible and hence likely to enjoy freedom from successful attack.

The various sorts of frontiers are then reviewed and criticised. In ancient times the frontier was a strip of neutral or no man's land. The establishment of spheres of interest ripened into spheres of influence. These have always tended to become buffer states or protectorates and finally annexed territories.

Sea, mountain and desert frontiers are declared to be best when they can be used. Less desirable are rivers and still less to be sought those irregular boundaries which depend on "war maps," or on a too scrupulous regard for ethnographic characteristics of the population and the lines established by latitude and longitude.

From these points of view, the boundaries of the various sections of the world are then criticised. The lessons of the present war are constantly in the author's mind. The standards he sets would fail to be satisfactory to both sides in the present war in a number of cases, as rules on which peace should be established. Obviously, as the author points out, there are some regions in which no standard is likely to be productive of international quiet. Most strikingly is that the case in the region which is discussed in the concluding chapter—the Balkans.

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